

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Takashi Yamaguchi et al.  
Confirmation No: 4930  
Serial No. : 09/691,435  
Filed : October 18, 2000  
TC/A.U. : 3713  
Examiner :

Docket No. : 00-631  
Customer No. : 34704

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313

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TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Dear Sir:

In accordance with the requirements of 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98, Applicant hereby submits the prior art listed hereinbelow, copies enclosed, which prior art was cited in the corresponding Japanese application.

(1) Japanese Laid-Open patent Publication No. 26-4874.

This patent is attached hereto along with an English translation.

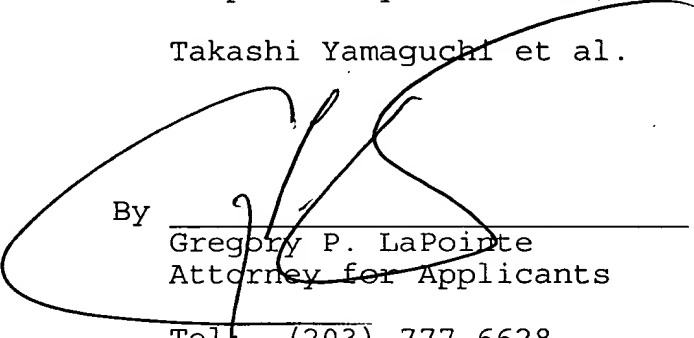
The undersigned hereby certifies that each item contained in this information disclosure statement was first cited in the corresponding Japanese application in an office action dated January 27, 2004.

The undersigned submits the above-identified references for independent consideration by the Examiner and does not make any admission that these references are or are not material to the present invention or that these references are or are not prior art with respect to the present invention.

Respectfully submitted,

Takashi Yamaguchi et al.

By

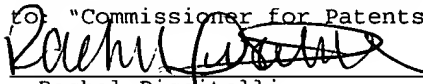
  
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Date: March 1, 2004

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: "Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313" on March 1, 2004.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Rachel Piscitelli

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Substitute for form 1449A/PTO

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**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE  
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

*(use as many sheets as necessary)*

Sheet

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Application Number

**Complete if Known**

09/691 435

Filing Date

October 18, 2000

First Named Inventor

Takashi Yamaguchi et al.

Group Art Unit

3714

Examiner Name

S. L. Ashburn

Attorney Docket Number

00-631

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

[illegible]

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## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

[illegible]

Examiner  
Signature

Date  
Considered

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup> Unique citation designation number. <sup>2</sup> See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

**Burden Hour Statement:** This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. **DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO:** Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.